

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

December 1, 2004

(status through November 30, prepared December 9)

TOTAL POPULATION

246

CAPTIVE POPULATION

132

Los Angeles Zoo	25
San Diego WAP	31
WCBP Boise	55
Oregon Zoo	13
Mentor birds in field pens	3
Pre-release birds in field pens	5
Southern California	0
Central California	0
Baja California	2
Arizona	3

WILD POPULATION

114

California	57
Southern California-released birds	
Flying	20
Central California-released birds	
Flying	30
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	6
Flying, wild-fledged	1
Baja California	8
Flying	8
Arizona	49
Flying, released	42
Flying, wild-fledged	3
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	4

Changes in November:

Arizona – 2 wild nestlings fledged in the Grand Canyon;

1 bird temporarily retrapped for lead poisoning treatment

Central California – 3 juveniles released at Pinnacles; 2 birds temporarily retrapped for behavior reasons

Eggs laid in 2004:

Los Angeles Zoo – 5 eggs: 2 hatched; 2 nestlings

Los Angeles Zoo – 4 eggs from other facilities: 4 hatched; 3 nestlings

San Diego WAP – 11 eggs: 1 transferred to LAZ, 8 hatched; 8 nestlings

WCBP Boise – 29 eggs: 2 transferred to LAZ, 15 hatched; 14 nestlings

Oregon Zoo – 2 eggs: 1 transferred to LAZ, 1 hatched; 1 nestling

Wild, California – 3 eggs: 3 hatched; 3 nestlings (1 died, 1 in rehabilitation, 1 fledged)

Wild, Arizona – 2 eggs: 2 hatched; 2 fledged

California Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/tebird/Condor%20Pop%20Stat.pdf

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TOTAL POPULATION

246

CAPTIVE POPULATION

132

Los Angeles Zoo	25	(including 6 young: 5 captive-bred, 1 wild rescue)
San Diego WAP	31	(including 8 young and 1 rescued juvenile (#319))
WCBP Boise	55	(including 14 young)
Oregon Zoo	13	(including 1 young)
Mentor birds in field pens	3	(SB# 36 in So. CA, # 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	5	
Southern California	0	
Central California	0	
Baja California	2	(SB# 315, 320)
Arizona	3	(SB# 297, 302, 314)

WILD POPULATION

114

California	57	
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	20	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	30	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	6	(SB# 265, 266, 270, 278, 286, 287)
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Baja California	8	
Flying	8	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Arizona	49	
Flying, released	42	
Flying, wild-fledged	3	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	4	(SB# 232, 273, 282, 243)

Changes in November:

Arizona – 2 wild nestlings fledged, SB# 242 on Nov. 23, and SB# 350 on Nov. 25 in the Grand Canyon; 1 bird (SB# 243) was temporarily retrapped for chelation treatment for lead poisoning
Central California – 3 juveniles released Nov. 10-24 at Pinnacles (SB# 306, 312, 317); 2 birds temporarily retrapped for behavior reasons (SB# 278, 286). Mentor bird (SB# 36) transferred to So. CA holding pens.

Eggs laid in 2004:

Los Angeles Zoo – 5 eggs: 1 non-viable, 1 broken, 1 died, 2 hatched; 2 nestlings
Los Angeles Zoo – 4 eggs from other facilities: 4 hatched; 3 nestlings
San Diego WAP – 11 eggs: 1 transferred to LAZ, 1 infertile, 1 died, 8 hatched; 8 nestlings
WCBP Boise – 29 eggs: 7 infertile, 2 transferred to LAZ, 5 non-viable, 15 hatched; 14 nestlings
Oregon Zoo – 2 eggs: 1 transferred to LAZ, 1 hatched; 1 nestling
Wild, California – 3 eggs: 3 hatched; 3 nestlings (1 died, 1 being rehabilitated at LAZ, 1 fledged)
Wild, Arizona – 2 eggs: 2 hatched; 2 fledged

Production in 2004 (preliminary): 28 offspring produced from 47 captive-laid eggs. 3 wild fledglings and 1 fledging-age bird in rehabilitation have been produced from 5 wild-laid eggs.

Production in 2003: 28 offspring produced from 41 captive-laid eggs. 1 fledgling produced from 4 wild-laid eggs.

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Explanatory Notes

SB# - Condor Studbook number

"CAPTIVE POPULATION" includes:

- birds captured from the wild prior to 1988 that are still in a captive facility (e.g., zoo)
- previously released birds returned to captivity permanently or for care and possible re-release
- surviving chicks and juveniles (excludes eggs laid)
- captive-hatched birds retained for captive breeding
- young birds held in breeding facilities in preparation for transfer to a field pen for release
- "mentor birds" from a captive facility transferred temporarily into a field pen to aid socialization of pre-release birds
- birds transferred from a captive facility to a field pen in preparation for initial release or re-release
- LAZ is Los Angeles Zoo; WAP is Wild Animal Park, Zoological Society of San Diego; WCBP is World Center for Birds of Prey, The Peregrine Fund

"WILD POPULATION" includes:

- free-flying birds recently accounted for
- free-flying birds, assumed to be alive, although not recently accounted for
- nestlings in wild nests
- temporarily re-captured wild birds, held in a field pen, that are intended to be re-released soon

"So. Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites from San Luis Obispo County to Ventura County by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Central Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites north of San Luis Obispo County by the Ventana Wilderness Society. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Baja Calif." refers to birds originally released in Baja California, Mexico, by the Zoological Society of San Diego, the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, and the Instituto Nacional de Ecología.

"Arizona" refers to birds released by The Peregrine Fund in Arizona and several other states east of Calif.

Mortalities requiring law enforcement investigation often will not be publicly reported immediately.

Wild Population Statistics, December 1, 2004

Releases:

1988-92: So. CA – 15 Andean condors released, 1 died, 14 recaptured and released in South America

1992-95: So. CA – 13 California condors released in 1992-93: 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently

Since 1995:

183 California condors released (So. CA – **52**; Cent. CA – **50**; Baja CA – **8**; AZ – **73**)

59 released-bird deaths:

0 in 1995; **2** in '96; **6** in '97; **5** in '98; **7** in '99; **16** in 2000; **5** in '01; **7** in '02; **10** in '03; **1** so far in '04

14 returned to captivity permanently, indefinitely, or for extended treatment or rehabilitation:

1 in 1995; **0** in '96; **4** in '97; **0** in '98; **3** in '99; **3** in 2000; **0** in '01; **2** in '02; **1** in '03; **0** so far in '04

Wild production, 2001- 2004:

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, California: **2*** in 2001; **3** in 2002; **1** in 2003; **3** in 2004 (*one trio with 2 eggs)

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Arizona: **1** in 2001; **2** in 2002; **3** in 2003; **2** in 2004

Of **18** wild-laid eggs, **1** hatched in captivity and was released to the wild, **10** hatched in the wild (fate of nestlings: 4 fledged, 1 in rehab, 5 died), and **7** eggs failed (broken, died, or fate unkn.)

Fostering of a captive-laid egg into a wild nest occupied by a trio in So. Calif. in 2001 resulted in hatching, but the chick was soon killed by an adult.

Wild population trend:

July 1 totals:

6 in 1995, **17** in '96, **29** in '97, **38** in '98, **49** in '99, **48** in '00, **56** in '01, **64** in '02, **82** in '03, **98** in '04

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